

Claims:

1. A method for buffering multimedia information, wherein a parameter is defined indicative of the maximum amount of transmission units comprising multimedia data that precede any transmission unit comprising multimedia data in a packet stream in transmission unit transmission order and follow the transmission unit comprising multimedia data in decoding order.  
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2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said multimedia data comprises a slice of an encoded picture.  
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3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said transmission unit comprising multimedia data is a VCL NAL unit.  
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4. A method for decoding encoded picture stream in a decoder, in which the encoded picture stream is received as transmission units comprising multimedia data, buffering of transmission units is performed, wherein the buffering requirements are indicated to the decoding process as a parameter indicative of the maximum amount of transmission units comprising multimedia data that precede any transmission unit comprising multimedia data in the packet stream in transmission unit transmission order and follow the transmission unit comprising multimedia data in decoding order.  
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5. A system comprising an encoder for encoding pictures , wherein a parameter is arranged to be defined indicative of the maximum amount of transmission units comprising multimedia data that precede any transmission unit comprising multimedia data in the packet stream in transmission unit transmission order and follow the transmission unit comprising multimedia data in decoding order.  
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6. The system according to claim 5, wherein it comprises a decoder for decoding encoded pictures, and a memory for buffering decoded pictures, wherein said parameter is arranged to be used for  
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determining required amount of memory places to be reserved from the memory for buffering decoded pictures.

- 5        7. The system according to claim 5, wherein said multimedia data comprises a slice of an encoded picture.
8. The method according to claim 5, wherein said transmission unit comprising multimedia data is a VCL NAL unit.
- 10      9. A transmitting device, wherein a parameter is arranged to be defined indicative of the maximum amount of transmission units comprising multimedia data that precede any transmission unit comprising multimedia data in the packet stream in transmission unit transmission order and follow the transmission unit comprising multimedia data in decoding order.
- 15        10. A receiving device for receiving encoded picture stream as transmission units comprising slice data, wherein a parameter is arranged to be used indicative of the maximum amount of transmission units comprising multimedia data that precede any transmission unit comprising multimedia data in the packet stream in transmission unit transmission order and follow the transmission unit comprising multimedia data in decoding order.
- 20        11. The receiving device according to claim 10, wherein it comprises a memory, and a definer for examining said parameter and for reserving memory places for buffering from said memory according to said parameter.
- 25        12. The receiving device according to claim 11, wherein it comprises a decoder for decoding pictures from the received encoded picture stream, and means for using the reserved memory places for buffering the encoded pictures.
- 30        13. A computer program product comprising machine executable steps for buffering encoded pictures, wherein the computer program product
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further comprises machine executable steps for defining a parameter indicative of the maximum amount of transmission units comprising multimedia data that precede any transmission unit comprising multimedia data in the packet stream in transmission unit transmission order and follow the transmission unit comprising multimedia data in decoding order.

14. A signal, wherein it includes a parameter indicative of the maximum amount of transmission units comprising multimedia data that precede any transmission unit comprising multimedia data in the packet stream in transmission unit transmission order and follow the transmission unit comprising multimedia data in decoding order.

15. A module for receiving encoded picture stream as transmission units comprising multimedia data, wherein a parameter is arranged to be used indicative of the maximum amount of transmission units comprising multimedia data that precede any transmission unit comprising multimedia data in the packet stream in transmission unit transmission order and follow the transmission unit comprising multimedia data in decoding order.

16. A method, comprising the steps of:  
decoding multimedia data in transmission units in a stream received over a transmission channel, and  
buffering said multimedia data according to a parameter indicative of a maximum amount of transmission units that precede and follow any transmission unit.

17. A system, comprising:  
transmitter for transmitting encoded pictures in transmission units for which a parameter is defined indicative of a maximum amount of transmission units comprising multimedia data that precede any transmission unit comprising multimedia data in transmission unit transmission order and follow the transmission unit comprising multimedia data in decoding order for transmission over a transmission channel; and

a receiver for receiving said encoded pictures for decoding said encoded pictures for buffering in a memory for storing decoded pictures in memory places reserved according to said parameter.

5     18. Device comprising:

means for decoding multimedia data in transmission units in a stream received over a transmission channel; and

10     means for buffering said multimedia data according to a parameter indicative of a maximum amount of transmission units that precede and follow any transmission unit.